
Jesse W. McCurdy



Deputy Assistant Commander for Research & Engineering Naval Air Systems Command



Deputy Assistant Commander for Research and Engineering, Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, Md. Selected into the Senior Executive Service in 1989, Mr. McCurdy is the Naval Air Systems Command's Civilian Chief Engineer, technical authority and spokesperson for all research and engineering and fleet support matters.

In 1976, Mr. McCurdy began his career with the U.S. Government at the Naval Air Systems Command as a Guidance and Control Engineer for the Sparrow and Sidewinder missiles. He was later assigned as the Senior Project Engineer (Class Desk) for the Sparrow program and joined the Joint Cruise Missiles Program as the project engineer for electrical systems. He was selected as Head of the Electrical Systems Branch and later became the Director of Engineering within the Joint Cruise Missiles Project Office. In this position, he led several major system design changes and product improvements in the ship, submarine and ground-launched cruise missiles variants and associated launch platforms. He was selected for the Senior Executive Service and appointed Associate Director of the Weapons Systems Engineering Division within the Naval Air Systems Command. He later became the Deputy Director of the Systems Engineering Department, and was responsible for managing and directing more than 400 engineers assigned to major Naval aircraft and weapons programs.

Mr. McCurdy became the Director of the Test and Evaluation Engineering Department in January 2001. While in this position, he was selected to lead the newly formed Integrated Systems Evaluation, Experimentation, and Test Department, consisting of over 3,600 military, civilian, and contractor personnel. He held this position until November 2005, where he is was selected to his current position.

He attended Howard University in Washington, D.C., and earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He completed the Contemporary Executive Development Program at George Washington University, and the Leadership 2000 Program at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and Brookings Institute. He completed the United States Navy Executive Business Course at the University of California, Berkeley.

Mr. McCurdy has received two Navy Superior Civilian Service Medals, the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, the Naval Air Systems Command Commander's Award, and the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Professional Achievement. He was named one of the 50 Most Important Blacks in Research Science in 2004 and was the Navy's Recipient of the 2005 NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award. He received the Presidential Rank Award 2006.

He is a member of the American Society of Naval Engineers, National Defense Industrial Association, International Council Systems Engineering, and Epworth Mentoring Program for Young Males.